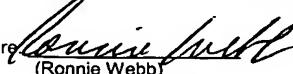


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EU578409043US, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on the date shown below.

Dated: February 3, 2003

Signature: 
(Ronnie Webb)

Docket No.: HO-P02206US1
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Tiffany L. Bierer, et al

Application No.: 10/264,886

Filed: October 4, 2002

For: WEIGHT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR
OBESE ANIMALS

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FEB 10 2003

TC 1700

Group Art Unit: N/A

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned.

A copy of each reference on PTO/SB/08 is attached.

While the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. It is submitted that the Information 25258676.1

Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 06-2375, under Order No. HO-P02206US1.

Dated: February 3, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Melissa W. Acosta

Registration No.: 45,872

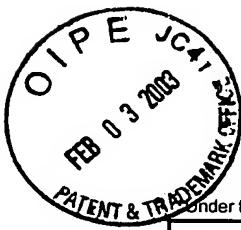
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(713) 651-5246 (Fax)



PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/264,886
				Filing Date	October 4, 2002
				First Named Inventor	Tiffany L. Bierer
				Art Unit	N/A
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	HO-P02206US1

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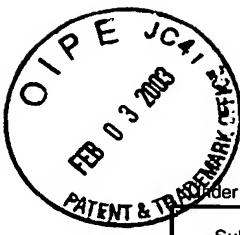
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
AA	3,810,994		05-14-1974	Wiegand	
AB	4,009,265		02-22-1977	Howard	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
BA	EP-0 646 325-A1		04-05-1995	Matsutani Chemical Industries Co. Ltd.	
BB	EP-0 965 278-A1		12-22-1999	Mathias Christian Zohoungbogbo	
BC	IB-00/51443-A1		09-08-2000	The Iams Company	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See attached Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the application number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. *Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	10/264,886
Sheet	2	of	2	Filing Date	October 4, 2002
				First Named Inventor	Tiffany L. Bierer
				Art Unit	N/A
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	HO-P02206US1

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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.		
	CA	Appleton, Delisa J., et al.; Feline Obesity: Pathogenesis and Implications for the Risk of Diabetes; pp 81 - 90		
	CB	Bouchard, G.F., et al.; Effect of Dietary Carbohydrate Source on Postprandial Plasma Glucose and Insulin Concentration in Cats; pp 91 - 101		
	CC	Sunvold, Gregory D.; The Role of Novel Nutrients in Managing Obesity; pp 123 - 133		
	CD	Nobels, F., et al.; Weight reduction with a high protein, low carbohydrate, calorie-restricted diet: effects on blood pressure, glucose and insulin levels; Netherlands Journal of Medicine 35:295 - 302, 1989		

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